MISCEL-LANEOUS

(vii) Stores Purchase Committee.

886. The total value of stores the purchase of which was arranged by the Stores Purchase Committee on behalf of the several Departments of Government both from firms in India and abroad amounted to Rs. 1,22,45,741 (Rs. 3,30,51,159). The value of orders placed with firms in India was Rs. 86,31,943 (Rs. 1,67,02,212) and the value of orders placed with foreign countries was Rs. 36,13,798 (Rs. 1,63,48,947) during the year.

887. Both the local and foreign purchases made during the year were much less than the purchases, made in the previous year. This was due to the restrictions imposed on the import of foreign materials, and the high prices prevailing all over the countries, including India.

888. Messrs. Rendel Palmer and Tritton, Ltd., London, were the Consulting and Inspecting Engineers in London, during the year. Since the Mysore Railway has been integrated with the Government of India Railway, the question of discontinuing the services of this Firm has been taken up. The inspecting staff of the Industries and Commerce Department inspected the articles of local manufacture such as, furniture, etc., required by the Government departments of the State.

889. Twenty firms were newly registered and put on the approved lists of the Stores Purchase Committee during the year.

890. The total expenditure on the Stores Purchase Committee, including the contribution of Rs. 4,000 paid towards the Trade Agents's Office in London, the charges paid to Messrs. Rendel, Palmer and Tritton and salaries, establishment of the office, amounted to Rs. 49,720 which works out to 0·40 per cent as against 0·17 per cent during the previous year.

891. A sum of Rs. 1,53,008 has been recovered from the Customs authorities, Madras, towards the refund of excess customs duty, etc., during the year.

(viii) Recruitment to Public Services.

892. The number and percentage of appointments held by Brahmins and Backward Communities in the Gazetted

and Non-Gazetted Services of the State during the official year were as follows.—

Caste	Gazetted Service		Non-Gazetted Service	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
Brahmins	592	41·29	15,069	34·20
Backward Communities ...	845	58·71	28,956	65·80
Total ...	1,437	100·00	44,025	100·00

893. Applications were called for, for the several kinds and classes of appointments and approved lists of eligible candidates were issued during the year. Apart from the appointments for which approved lists of eligible candidates were issued, 1,780 vacancies which occurred in other kinds and classess of service were individually advertised and dealt with. The response from qualified candidates for Classes II and III appointments was satisfactory. But, the dearth of graduates of Backward Communities for Class I appointments continued to some extent. Hence the scheme of holding the Public Service Competitive examination for recruitment to the ministerial service for the year was suspended.

894. Irregular appointments and promotions were promptly checked by systematic inspection of unit offices of recruitment by the inspecting staff. Even local appointments were not allowed to be continued in any unit for more than three months without the approval of the Public Service Commissioner.

(ix) Anti-Corruption

895. Enquiries were on hand in respect of 215 petitions at the commencement of the year. During the year, 826 petitions were received. Of the total number of petitions received, 225 containing allegations of a less serious nature were referred to the concerned departmental officers for necessary action. Among the other petitions enquired into, the allegations made in 102 instances were found to be either false or incapable of proof; and investigations in respect of 29 cases in which the allegations were substantiated resulted in 7 Government servants being compulsorily retired from service, one reduced, 3 depromoted and 5 fined and admonished. The entire staff of a Government Middle School and a clerk of the food section of the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Hassan District, were warned and